



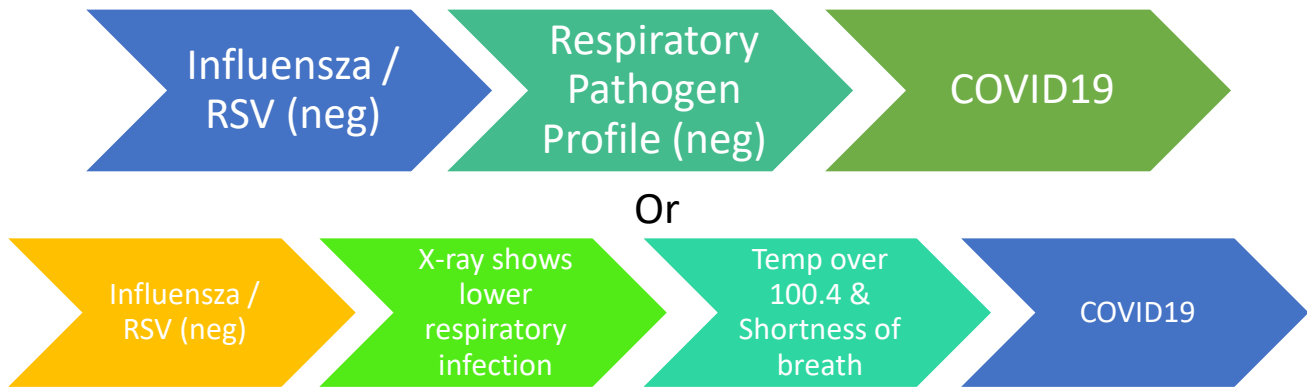
To: Facilities Serviced by HHL and HHL Employees
From: Heartland Health Laboratories, Inc.
Date: March 17, 2020
RE: COVID19 Recommendations and Available Testing *UPDATE*

Heartland Health Laboratories, Inc. (HHL) is committed to continuing to provide excellent laboratory services during the novel Coronavirus-19 pandemic (COVID19). This is a fluid situation, changes in procedures and processes are happening frequently. Please be patient with our laboratory staff during these challenging times. We will continue to comply with completion of prevention and control formwork when requested to aid in the wellbeing of residents. Our staff will also allow their temperature to be taken with the understanding a temperature over 100.4F (38.C) will be grounds to refuse entry.

As a member of your healthcare team we extend the following recommendations:

Each facility should explicitly follow their protocols and Standard Operating Procedures regarding COVID19. The CDC Person Under Investigation (PUI) form requests the results from the following tests. Due to the limited number of tests available, patients must meet the following criteria.

(As of 3/17/20 these testing algorithms are current)



Heartland Health Laboratories, Inc. will offer testing for influenza/RSV, the Respiratory Pathogen Profile and COVID19.

COVID19 testing protocol :

1. Notify HHL staff that testing is being ordered on a PUI
2. Patients must meet the CDC requirements for COVID19 testing listed above
 - a. The dedicated facility staff caring for the patient will collect and label the specimen
 - b. HHL phlebotomists will not be collecting specimens for COVID19 testing
 - c. This is an effort to minimize the exposure of HHL staff and other residents
3. Turnaround times
 - a. Respiratory Pathogen Profile and COVID19 testing are NOT available STAT
 - b. The Respiratory Pathogen Profile has a 5-7 day turnaround
 - c. The COVID19 testing has a 3-5 day turnaround

Some helpful links are listed below.

CMS Guidance for Infection Control and Prevention of Coronavirus Disease 2019

<https://www.cms.gov/medicareprovider-enrollment-and-certificationsurveycertificationgeninfopolicy-and/qso-20-14-nh.pdf>

Evaluating and Testing Persons for Coronavirus Disease (2019) COVID19

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>

Any questions regarding COVID19 should be directed to your local Health Department or the CDC. As always thank you for allowing us to care for your residents and allowing us to be part of your healthcare team.